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course very largely with reference to the non-scholastic pursuits which await them after leaving college; if they do not want to study Greek, they may study French or German or Spanish; they may study applications of science, as well as pure science; if they do not want to study philosophy or advanced mathematics, they may study the labor problem, or banking and currency, or commercial geography and commercial law: only let it be understood that whatever they profess to study they must really study. In a college, as in a railroad station, there is no room for loafers.

WILLIAM NORTH RICE

THE PALEONTOLOGICAL SOCIETY

FOR some years there has been a growing desire among paleontologists for a society in which students of all branches of paleontology can unite for the promotion of their common interests. Such an organization has now been effected as a section of the Geological Society of America under the name of "The Paleontological Society."

The preliminary correspondence which was begun by Professor Charles Schuchert, of Yale University, early last year, was inspired by the successful meeting of the American Society of Vertebrate Paleontologists in New Haven. This correspondence developed the fact that nearly 60 paleontologists are ready to unite in a general society, and of these, 34 attended the first meeting for organization in Baltimore on December 30, 1908. At this meeting an Executive Committee, consisting of Charles Schuchert, F. B. Loomis, S. W. Williston, David White, H. F. Osborn and T. W. Stanton, was appointed with full power to act for the society.

On February 13, 1909, the Executive Committee met with a special committee of the Geological Society of America in the American Museum of Natural History, New York City, and made a satisfactory adjustment of the relations between the two societies. The committee also prepared a constitution and by-laws and elected the following board of

officers for the Paleontological Society to serve the remainder of this year:

President—John M. Clarke.

First Vice-president—John C. Merriam.

Second Vice-president—Timothy W. Stanton.

Third Vice-president—David White.

Treasurer—William D. Matthew.

Secretary—Herdman F. Cleland.

Editor—Charles R. Eastman.

It is expected that all the paleontologists of North America will be enrolled in the membership of the new society before next winter, when its first regular meeting will be held with a full program of papers.

T. W. STANTON

ENGINEERS OF WISCONSIN FORM STATE SOCIETY

THE organization of the Engineering Society of Wisconsin was completed at the first meeting, held at the University of Wisconsin February 24-26, at which some 150 city engineers, general managers of power and traction companies, contracting engineers, superintendents of water and light plants, mechanical and civil engineers, and superintendents of highway construction were present and became charter members.

The officers elected were: *President*, Dean F. E. Turneaure, College of Engineering, University of Wisconsin; *Vice-president*, City Engineer McClelland Dodge, of Appleton; *Trustees* for two years, B. F. Lyons, assistant general manager of the Beloit Gas and Electric Co., and E. P. Worden, mechanical engineer of the Prescott Steam Pump Co., Milwaukee; *Trustees* for one year, E. Gonzenbach, of the Sheboygan Electric Light and Power Co., and City Engineer E. R. Banks, of Superior. These, as executive board, will elect the secretary later.

The new organization will hold annual meetings hereafter for the purpose of bringing together the engineers from all parts of the state interested in the solution of such problems as arise in connection with municipal plants, large construction work, bridge, forest and water-power questions, and light and power production. A wide range of subjects

was included in the program for the initial meeting of the society.

At the opening session, February 24, following the address of welcome by President Charles R. Van Hise, was a presentation of the scope of the highway work of the State Geological Survey, by W. O. Hotchkiss, highway engineer for the survey. A. R. Hirst, also of the state highway department, spoke on the use of tar, oils and emulsions on macadam and earth roads. The discussion on pavements was led by McClelland Dodge, city engineer of Appleton, and participated in by P. H. Connelly, city engineer of Racine; W. G. Kirchoffer, consulting engineer, Madison, and others. City Engineer C. V. Kerch, of Janesville, spoke on the construction of the Court Street bridge in that city.

Interest in the discussion of the conservation of forests and water resources of Wisconsin, a subject presented by State Forester E. M. Griffith, waxed so keen that the paper on "The Water-power Resources of the State," by Professor L. S. Smith, who is engineer for both the state and national geological surveys, was postponed to the following evening. The conservation discussion was led by Senator T. W. Brazeau, and Senator E. E. Brown, Assemblyman J. R. Jones and Professor D. W. Mead also spoke on the subject.

Professor W. D. Pence, who is engineer for the Wisconsin Railroad Commission, opened the second day's program with a description of the organization of the commission's engineering staff. The new problem of standards of gas and electric service was discussed by Professor C. F. Burgess, of the department of applied electrochemistry at the university, who has done important work in enabling the state railroad commission to prescribe a standard for fuel and illuminating gas.

The electric interurban roads of Wisconsin were made the subject of an address by F. G. Simmons, superintendent of construction and maintenance of way for the Milwaukee Electric Railway and Light Company. The day circuit for small towns was discussed by Professor J. W. Shuster, and new forms of arc lamps by W. E. Wickenden, also of the elec-

trical engineering department. Dean Turneure took the members of the society through the engineering experimental laboratories, explaining the work that is being done there in many lines of research.

The second night was given to a discussion of water powers, W. G. Kirchoffer describing the water supply of the city of Marshfield, and Professor D. W. Mead the subject of hydraulic and hydroelectric power development. Papers on "The Waterproofing of Concrete," by F. M. McCulloch, city engineer of Stoughton; "Municipal Engineering in the Orient, and in Porto Rico," by J. T. Hurd and Edwin Wray; "Gas Producers and Small Power Stations," by V. E. McMullen, Beloit, and C. T. Atkinson; and "Madison's Concrete Storm Sewer System," by City Engineer John F. Icke, concluded the convention program.

THE DARWIN CENTENARY

To commemorate the centenary of the birth of Charles Darwin, Professor Vines, Professor Poulton and Professor Bourne gave an "At Home" to the university in the Examination Schools, Oxford, on February 12. There was a large and distinguished gathering, including four of Charles Darwin's sons—Mr. William Darwin, Sir George Darwin, Mr. Francis Darwin and Major Leonard Darwin. Books, letters, etc., of Charles Darwin were shown by Mr. R. W. T. Günther (Magdalen), and Professor Poulton made an address on "Fifty Years of Darwinism." Sir George Darwin and Mr. Francis Darwin briefly addressed the gathering.

THE Darwin centenary was celebrated at Shrewsbury, his birthplace, under the auspices of the Shropshire Natural History Society. Dr. Cosmo Melvill presided, and Dr. Hoyle, of Manchester University, gave an address on Darwin.

THE special business of the meeting of the Academy of Natural Sciences, of Philadelphia, held February 16, was the commemoration of the centenary of the birth of Charles Darwin and of the fiftieth year of the publication of the "Origin of Species." The president, Dr. Samuel G. Dixon, spoke of the in-